LEVEL ONE

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Soundings

News and Information from
The Northwest Washington Synod

Volume 19, Number 3 March 2002

A Word From The Assistant To The Bishop, Jan Nesse

"When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalen, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb...As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

Mark 16:1-2, 5-8 NRSV

Christ Is Risen

For those with family and close friends directly involved with the fiery collapse of the World Trade Center or the damages at the Pentegon, September 11, 2001 is a defining reference point in their own histories. And for the majority of us, it has changed the way we live our lives. Airport waiting areas are filled with "passengers only," stadiums have more thorough searches of those entering and never is the news broadcast that some reference is not made to the September 11 point in history.

Christians have an even more defining point in history, Easter. Actually, the point in history is defined for everyone, it's just that Christians know its significance. Christ is risen and death is defeated. And that has changed the whole world. But how does it change our own worlds? Are we like those with close family and friends at "ground zero?" Or are we like the rest of the masses that are continually reminded in news casts, that this event should shape our future?

Just this morning, I heard another news report that there had been threats against some installations in the United States. "But," said the

continued on page 2

Continued from page 1--A Word from the Assistant to the Bishop

Christ Is Risen

news reporter, "this does not change things for most of us, probably not even for law enforcement officials. We are at the maximum security level without a specific threat. Our law enforcement officials are simply keeping a better eye out for unusual events or activities." I was driving to work as I heard the report. I continued driving thinking briefly about what an unusual activity might be. And then, I went on with thinking about the meetings and appointments that I had planned for the day.

In spite of the horrific tragedy of September 11, in spite of the constant reminders of it in news releases, I continue to go about my daily activities. It made me stop to wonder if Easter has the same effect on me.

Christ is risen . . . but the world seems as it has always been. People drive to work or school, mothers tend their children, children play with pets and toys, friends meet for coffee and strangers pass one another on the sidewalk in varying degrees of apathy. The world seems to be as it has always been.

The women at the tomb, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James and Salome, knew life even in their immense sorrow. They came to the tomb of one they loved to do the ordinary thing, the expected routine assigned to women. They came to tend the body of a dead friend. And it was in the doing of the ordinary, expected routine of daily living that Easter came upon them.

They met a stranger who announced to them that Jesus of Nazareth, their friend, was no longer there. He had risen. The ordinary was no longer, this was extraordinary. But how could they tell anyone? Who would believe such a fantastic thing? The women knew the world was changed, was transformed, was different . . . for everybody, not just for them, but they knew it in a special way.

Easter is ground zero for us. It is the defining point in our history for it has changed, not only us, but the world. And it is in our daily, ordinary routines that Easter comes to us. As we move toward Easter we remember that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Thanks be to God.

New Name For AAL/LB?

In June 2001, Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL), and Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) announced plans to merge. In September the AAL board of directors and LB general convention approved the merger that went into effect Jan. 1, 2002. The combined membership now has a new name to consider -- "Thrivent Financial for Lutherans." AAL/LB, as the organization is now known, will send information and ballots to its members. Ratification and the necessary regulatory approvals are expected to be in place so the new name can be used about mid-2002.

Northwest Washington Synod Information

Congregational Report Forms Due

The Annual Congregational Report Forms were mailed to all congregations by the ELCA in Chicago. The completed forms were due to the Synod Office by **February 15, 2002**.

There are two ways to file your annual congregational report. You may complete the hard copy you received from the ELCA and mail it to the Synod Office, or you can file electronically. To do so, go to the ELCA Home Page at www.elca.org and select the item "File 2001 Congregation Report". You must key in your congregation I.D. number and password, which are printed at the top of your "A" Form. (The Synod Office does not have a list of these passwords, so you must rely on the hard copy you received from Churchwide.)

IRS Information

Revocation of Exemption from Self-Employment Tax

Ministers, members of a religious order or a Christian Science practitioner, who are exempt from Self-Employment Tax because of an approved Form 4361, have until April 15, 2002, to revoke that exemption. This deadline is extended beyond April 15, 2002, if you get an extension to file your 2001 return.

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 provides a window of opportunity for

continued on page 16

May Bishop's Convo

The Spring Bishop's Convo will be held on Ascension Day, May 9. The program will be organized by the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee with the topic *Safe Haven for Children - Reducing the Risk of Abuse in our Churches.* Please hold Thursday, May 9, open for this Bishop's Convocation. More details regarding the program and location will be announced in future Soundings.

Submitting Resolutions to the 2002 Synod Assembly

At its January 19 meeting the Synod Council set April 1 as the deadline date for receipt of assembly resolutions in the Synod Office. Please note this date on the enclosed resolution form (yellow). Any member in good standing of a congregation in the Northwest Washington Synod may submit a resolution to the 2002 Synod Assembly.

Synod Committees

Synod committees such as the World Hunger Committee, the Board for Outreach and Evangelism, the Finance Committee and the Communication Committee need additional members to ensure that the work of congregations and the Synod continues. Take a look at page 6-9 in the Synod's directory for the full listing. For more information contact the Synod office at 206-783-9292, 1-800-244-6997 or email at nwwasynod@qwest.net.

News From Board of Pensions

Sign Up For Investment News–The Board of Pensions investment-info newsletter gives timely information and web links designed to help plan members and administrators learn about investment terminology, strategies, trends and recent news. The first newsletter will be sent mid-February in conjunction with updated investment performance returns. Sign up today at http://www.elcabop.org/news_events/email_newsletter.asp

Special Needs Retirement Fund, Passing The Peace–Parishoners at the former St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Chicago recently donated $120,000 to the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund. This fund provides an additional source of income to retired pastors and other churchworkers who are living on extremely low incomes. Learn more about this fund and how you can help at http://www.elcabop.org/news_events/news_articles/news_article.asp

Express Scripts 'Construction Delays'–Our move to Express Scripts as your new prescription drug benefits administrator has experienced some "construction delays" the first few weeks of 2002. Here are some helpful tips:

- Register on Express Scripts' new, personalized web site at www.express-scripts.com (select "For Members") to check your prescription drug benefit coverage, refill your prescriptions, track the status of your order, learn about health and more.
- Contact Express Scripts with any questions you may have about your prescription drugs or pharmacy locations at 1-800-575-8090.
- Did you receive a letter from Express Scripts about your current prescription drugs? Have questions? Learn about your options atwww.elcabop.org/resources_tools/tutorials/health/health.asp and select nonformulary drugs.
- If you have further questions about navigating your prescription drug benefits, please contact the Board of Pensions' health care advocacy line at 1-877-352-0005 or healthcare@elcabop.org.

Board of Pensions At Synod Assemblies

The Board of Pensions is pleased to participate in synod assemblies. In addition to displaying information materials, ELCA Board of Pensions representatives will meet individually with plan members and other assembly attendees, and will be more than pleased to provide plan members with an on-the-spot pension estimate. Please stop by the Board of Pensions' table during your assembly and visit with our representative.

World Mission's Day–Into All The World...

by Viola Van Gilder

The halls—and classrooms—of Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah were a-buzz with the "Good News to the Whole Creation," as the week of Foreign Missions emphasis culminated with an event on Saturday, February 2. This was sponsored by the World Mission Prayer League (a 50 year-old Lutheran Missions Group) and the Global Mission Committee of the NWWA Synod.

Youth from the Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church participated in serving the lovely brunch. Then, through the displays and workshops, the nearly 100 participants learned about:

- Poverty and AIDS in Africa and Afghanistan,
- Medical work in Kenya and Madagascar,
- Outreach through Trans World Radio,
- Work with immigrants and foreign students among us, and
- Church growth in our companion churches in Ethiopia and Russia!

Vibrant young Julia Kurtjakova (you may have seen her picture and article on page 44 of the February "Lutheran") told how "my parents were atheist, but my 'closet Orthodox grandma' kept praying that I would be baptized." This was answered when Finnish Lutheran missionaries were allowed across the border. Julia showed pictures of the overflowing VBS in which children were sitting on the floor and using pews as desks. Confirmation classes include parents and even grandparents who are just now receiving the Good News of the Gospel.

Congo Volcanic Eruption and Continuing Crisis In Afghanistan

The volcanic eruption in Congo, together with the continuing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, are events that call for our church's members to respond. These are places where the ELCA, through its International Disaster Response arm, was present to offer help in the first hours following the disaster's outbreak. In these and other disaster locations, our church is grateful to have partners, such as Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation, that have long worked in relief and development and therefore can be ready to respond immediately when disasters strike.

Please support the efforts of the ELCA. A Disastergram is available at www.elca.org/dgm/disaster/congogram.html. The Disastergram is in a form that you can easily print out and photocopy.

2002 Synod Assembly

The 2002 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly is scheduled for Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood.

This year's theme is: *Life Together: Listening, Learning, Living.* The theme will be centered around the topic of homosexuality. This was chosen because of the two resolutions that were passed at the 2001 Churchwide Assembly. (For more information, please see the January issue of Soundings, pg 4.)

Chair of this year's Assembly Task Force is Steven Chapman, member of Central in Seattle. Other Task Force members are: Donene Blair (Synod Executive Assistant), Sherianne Caldwell (Luther Memorial, Seattle), Fred Chrysler (Trinity, Lynnwood), Ed Gustafson (Maple Leaf, Seattle), Lyle Kellogg (Peace, Silvana), Claudia LaFollette (Burlington, Burlington), Rev. Eldon Olson (St. James, Seattle) Margit Peiffle (Synod Communications Specialist) and Cheryl Wolff (Trinity, Everett).

If you know of someone who would like to participate on this task force, contact Steven Chapman at 206-322-3477 or email at chinadad@hotmail.com. At this time, the Assembly Task Force is meeting at 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at Trinity.

Special Note For Retired Pastors:

Are you planning on attending the 2002 Synod Assembly as a voting member? If you are, and you were **not** at last year's Synod Assembly, you need to let the Synod Office know your intent to vote by March 1. Call 206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997.

Elections Held

For Women of the ELCA Synod

The NWWA Women of the ELCA held their annual convention at Warm Beach. Elections were held.

New officers are:

President–Hilde Glore (Queen Anne Lutheran, Seattle)

Vice-President–Margot Massey (St. James Lutheran, Seattle)

Secretary–Yvonne Deacon (Prince of Peace, SeaTac)

Treasurer–Kathy Stiles (Bethlehem Lutheran, Sedro Woolley)

Members-at-Large

Beverly Landgraf (Anacortes Lutheran, Anacortes)

Judith Zoellick (First Lutheran, Bothell)

Beverly Carlson (Faith Lutheran, Lakewood)

Doreen Jackson (Hope Lutheran, Lynden)

Estelle Morley (Hope Lutheran, Seattle)

A special thank you to Debra Compton, Peace in Silvana, who has worked tirelessly as the Synodical President for the past seven years. Debra's dedicated service to the women's organization has brought many new insights to our synod. Thank you, Debra.

Christian Unity

The 2002 National Workshop for Christian Unity (NWCU) will be held May 20-23 at the Sheraton-Cleveland City Centre in Cleveland, Ohio. (This is the 39th year that this workshop has been held.) For more information about this workshop visit the NWCU website at http://nwcu.tripod.com/nwcu2002.

State Advocate's Corner

by Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director; Lutheran Public Policy Office

As I write this our legislature is beginning its fourth week. When you read this they will beginning their seventh week! A lot will have happened in those three weeks, but hopefully this isn't all 'old' news by the time this reaches you. All congregations and a number of individuals receive the LPPO (Lutheran Public Policy Office) email alerts. If you don't receive the email alerts, please let me know.

The legislature is in the midst of working on the Governor's supplemental budget proposal which has $236 million cuts/eliminations of many critical human service programs because of our current state deficit of $1.25 billion. Please circulate the 1-800-562-6000 in your Sunday bulletins or copy as a handout.

According to the four LPPO's legislative priorities here's how they're faring in the legislature so far: (Every congregation should have received the 2002 Legislative Priorities brochure. If you need one, please let me know.)

1) Prevent Health & Human Service Cuts

a) GA-U (General Assistance-Unemployable)—Not slated for any reductions - so far!

b) Medicaid Waiver—Was not granted by the Federal government. This keeps DSHS from limiting access to the BHP/SCHIP health care programs.

c) Home Care—Advocate for a $.40/hr wage increase for Home Care workers, and a $.40/hr provider/vendor rate increase.

2) Tax Reform/Revenue Funding—Urge your legislators to reform our state's tax system from being the most regressive in the nation (meaning that the wealthier you are the less you pay in taxes) to a more progressive system.

3) Agric./Food-Hunger/Environment

a) WIC/FMNP (Women, Infant, Children & Farmer's Market Nutrition Program)—Urge your legislator to preserve this program that helps low income pregnant women and/or with babies/kids.

b) EFAP (Emergency Food Assistance Program)—Oppose the planned reduction of this program that helps over 300 food banks in our state.

4) Welfare Reform/Economic Justice

a) Urge your legislators to support the GI Bill (Gaining Independence-HB2534) and the HELP Bill (Higher Education Lifelong Program-SB5201)

b) Urge your legislators to support the business subsidy disclosure bill (HB2413).

Events/Resources:

- "Building Alliances to Reduce Poverty" Conference—Seattle University at 7 p.m. on March 1 and 2 at Pigott Auditorium.
- ELCA Health Care Statement Hearing on Feb. 9 has been changed to a Saturday in April. Location at PLU.
- "Hunger No More"—Decisions 2002 Bible Study resource available at www.bread.org or 1-800-82-BREAD, ext. 223.
- "Working From Poverty to Promise" - Bread For The World's 2002 Offering of Letters study action packet.

If you have any questions, contact me at 206-694-5772 or pbenz@lcsnw.org.

The Whole People of God:
A Celebration of the Global Church

A conference to celebrate the many cultural manifestations of the people of God and to explore the variety of locales in which the Gospel is proclaimed will be held on March 8 and 9. This annual conference is sponsored by Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sedro-Woolley.

The featured keynote speaker will be Jonathan Frerichs, communication director for Lutheran World Relief. Chaplain for the event will be the Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop.

For registration information and forms, please contact Bethlehem at 360-856-6181.

Listen to *Lutheran Vespers* with Rev. Walt Wangerin every Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on KIRO Newsradio 710 AM.

Have you thought of supporting this wonderful ministry that reaches between 20,000 and 40,000 people each and every Sunday?

Please consider *Lutheran Vespers*. It is only through local support of individuals and congregations that we are able to keep the program on the air. It costs $1,000 for the 30-minute program. If you would like to help, or if you need more information, please contact Ernie Fosse at 360-652-2909 or email at ErnieFo@microsoft.com.

Ministry, Vocation and Family Workshop

Consultation to Clergy, the Bishops of Region 1 and the President of LCMS are offering the *Ministry, Vocation and Family Workshop* from April 15 - 17 at Gethsemane in Seattle.

This highly acclaimed workshop will again be led by experienced career counselor Larry Gaffin. Gaffin is skilled in helping church professionals clarify their vocational, family and personal goals.

Cost is $275 and covers pre-session testing materials, workshop tuition, materials and an individual session with Larry Gaffin. For more information, contact Dr. David Kruger, Director of Consultation to Clergy, at 206-623-8193. In order to allow time for pre-workshop testing and evaluation, all registrations must be received by March 12.

Dare to Live God's Promise
Global Mission Events

Plan now to attend the 2002 Global Mission Events at one of two locations: July 18 - 21 at Hickory in North Carolina, or July 25-28 at Minneapolis, Minn.

All congregations received information about these dates in their January-February 2002 Action Packet. For more information go to www.elca.org or call 1-800-638-3522.

2002 Churchwide Men's Gathering

Hundreds of ELCA men from across the nation will gather in San Antonio this summer for "Blueprints for Living," the churchwide Lutheran Men in Mission Gathering. The 2002 gathering will be held July 26-28 at the Marriott Rivercenter in downtown San Antonio.

Registration information is available on-line at www.elca.org/lmm/lmmgathr.html or by calling 1-800-638-3522.

Women of the ELCA

Triennial Gathering

Gather with thousands of your Lutheran sisters from across the United States for worship, Bible study, workshops and on-site visits to exciting Christian ministries.

Women of the ELCA Fifth Triennial Gathering will be held from July 8-14, 2002, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (and various hotels) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Cost for the full week is $225 if paid on or before May 1, or $280 after May 1. The three-day registration includes all gathering activities on July 11, 12 and 13. Cost is $200 if paid on or before May 1, or $250 after May 1. Scholarships are available.

Registration information is available on-line at www.elca.org/wo; by telephone at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730; by fax at 773-380-2419; or by email at womnelca@elca.org.

Come And Learn About Global Warming

by Jeanne Rehwinkel, Task Force Coordinator

On Saturday, May 4, the Synod Task Force on Global Climate Change will offer an orientation and training workshop to initiate implementation of the 2001 Synod Assembly Resolution, SA2001.11. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Prince of Peace, Everett.

True to the theme, *Global Climate Change: A Faithful and Practical Response*, this training event is targeted to congregational leaders: social justice, education, stewardship, youth ministries and facilities management.

The workshop will focus on practical solutions based on actual case studies and will include examples of ongoing local ministries of creation-care congregations. In response to the universal cry, "The problem is too big for one person to have any impact," non-polluting, energy-saving suggestions for individuals, families and households will be addressed.

The greatest challenges **and** opportunities for us lie in the choices we make as individuals, as a nation and as the people of God in the production and consumption of energy. These activities account for the vast majority of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. For the faith community the threat of global climate change is an issue of social, political and economic justice not simply environmental stewardship. Our children's future is at stake.

Health, Healing and Healthcare

Our Ministry of Healing

As part of a four-year study process to develop a social statement on health and health care, the ELCA is hosting a series of hearings across the United States. The hearings are to begin collecting reactions to "Health, Healing and Health Care," the first draft of a social statement the ELCA will consider at the 2003 Churchwide Assembly. The ELCA Division for Church in Society (DCS) sent each of the ELCA's 10,816 congregations, as well as pastors and lay leaders serving in other settings, a copy of the document last year.

ELCA members are to offer their responses to the first draft by Sept. 1, so the responses may inform the development of a proposal for the assembly.

The first hearing was held on January 27 in Atlanta. The hearing for our region is for 9 a.m. on April 13 at the Columbia Center, Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. (Note: This replaces the session that was scheduled for February 9.)

Further information and registration forms will be sent to congregations.

Copies of the draft statement are available from Augsburg-Fortress or on-line at www.elca.org/dcs/healthcare.

Preparing Leaders for the 21st Century

Luther Seminary has a new Doctor of Ministry program in congregational mission and leadership. It is the first in the country to combine both mission and congregational leadership.

This program prepares individuals to: revitalize existing congregations, create new ones, or provide leadership in regional judicatories, denominational agencies, and religious or non-profit organizations in North America.

Applicants must have completed a Master of Divinity degree, have three years of post-M.Div. ministry experience and a M.Div. GPA of at least 3.0. Applications are due by March 15, 2002 for the first group of students who will begin this summer.

For additional information about the program, visit the website at www.luthersem.edu/dmin or call 651-641-3203. Detailed information is on the seminary website: www.luthersem.edu/dmin.

2001 Earthquake Remembered

Friends of the Compass Center are invited to a breakfast on the one year anniversary of the Ash Wednesday Earthquake. Doors open at 7:45 a.m. on February 28 at the First Base Terrace Club of Safeco Field. Complimentary parking and tour of Safeco Field. For information or reservations, call Cindy Jackson, Compass Center, at 206-461-7835, ext. 36.

A Time of Rejoicing: Our Ethiopian Companion Synod

by Ben Bretheim, Chair, Synod Task Force for Companion Synod in Ethiopia

The NWWA Synod responded with generosity to the ingathering for the Economical Church Buildings for our Companion Synod in Ethiopia during 2001.

Special efforts were made during the Lenten season, on Reformation Sunday and at Thanksgiving to raise up the needs of our companion synod in Ethiopia. Gifts from Our Savior's in Everett, Our Saviour's in Stanwood and a multiple church group giving made possible the building of five economical church buildings in Effeson, Wereilu, Kutaber, Selam and Bati.

Since then churches in Whatcom and Sno-Isle Clusters have raised more than enough money for buildings in Mersa and Alamata, which were sent via Chicago in December and January. Funds for two more buildings, Akesta and Sanka, are almost ready to be sent thanks to Bethany, Bainbridge Island; and a group of congregations including First Lutheran in Mount Vernon, Cross and Crown in Renton and some extra funds from Sno-Isle Cluster and Our Saviour's in Stanwood.

Five other synod congregations have already begun plans to gather funds for Economical Church Buildings in 2002. Because of this response, the Synod's Task Force for Companion Synod Ethiopia has encouraged Pastor Teshome, President of the North Central Ethiopia Synod, to give us names of congregations that were not included in the first 10. This brings us to a time of rejoicing for what the Lord has done among us.

Synod Anti-Racism Committee Up and Running

by Katherine Long, member Synod Anti-Racism Committee

The NWWA Synod Anti Racism (A-R) committee is up and running. We are working on a resource folder for Synod congregations which will contain a copy of the ELCA Statement on Racism, training facilitators and materials, study guides for adult ed or small group studies, and other local church and secular groups who work for A-R and against white privilege. We will provide information on upcoming A-R forums, marches, events and government policies that congregations can participate in and be advocates for.

In January our speaker was Pat Champion, a member and staff of Gethsemane, Seattle. Pat is also a member of the Seattle Human Rights Committee and Citizens Task Force for Racial Profiling. She told us of the latter groups' work on a data collection form for racial profiling for Seattle Police use during all traffic stops. The training for the police officers has just begun and now the Task Force is working on ways to notify all of the communities about this data collection form. The form is designed to give the SPD feedback on officers use and/or attitudes of racial profiling. She encouraged all Lutherans to become active advocates for anti-racism work. For more information, please contact me at 425-497-9090 or email at kblonde@oz.net

Spirit Lodge Dedication

Dayton Edmonds, a native American storyteller, and special music by *Singout* will be part of the dedication of the Spirit Lodge at Camp Lutherwood on June 1. A family potluck picnic will begin the dedication at noon.

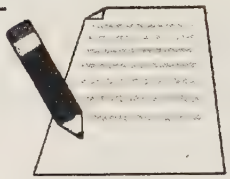
The Spirit Lodge was originally envisioned two years ago by Pastor Lou Accola, Wooden Cross in Woodinville; Alan Rogstad, Camp Lutherwood Executive Director; and Bishop Chris Boerger. The Spirit Lodge was conceived as a cornerstone project for Camp Lutherwood to replace an old fishing cabin.

For more information, contact Camp Lutherwood at 360-734-7652.

Lutheran Women's Caucus To Meet

The Story of the Rich Man and Lazarus--and You will be the program of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Lutheran Women's Caucus. The program will begin at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, at Central Lutheran Church (1710 Eleventh Ave. E).

Presenters are Rev. Paul Winterstein, pastor of Calvary in Seattle (LCMS), and Boots Winterstein, Director of Lutheran Community Services Northwest. The meeting will begin with shared finger food. Both the luncheon and the program are open to the public. For more information please contact Sally Wing, Ph.D., at 425-747-5924 or email at drswing@webtv.net.



Writers Workshop

The ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries has organized a *Writers Workshop* from June 16 through June 20 at Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah.

The workshop is for all who are interested in writing for the church. The workshop will cover many aspects of writing including devotional, curricular, features, news, drama and writing for publication. Cost is $150 and includes single room, meals, and resources. Enrollment is limited to 25 participants. Registration is due before March 15 along with a writing sample. Attendees will be notified by April 15 of acceptance. For more information contact Rev. Ted Schroeder at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2569; or email at schroede@elca.org.

Go Fly A Kite!

It's more than a figure of speech. This is your invitation to bring your kite and attend the Lutheran Staff Association 2002 Conference to be held April 15-18 at the Cannon Beach Conference Center, Cannon Beach, Oregon. (Formerly known as Association of Professional Lay Ministers.) The event is centered around *Proclaiming the Promise: The Use of Means of Grace.* This study of the sacraments will be led by Rev. Wayne Bacus, pastor of Queen Anne in Seattle. Bible study leader is Rev. Dawna Svaren, pastor at Emmanuel in Moscow, Idaho. Cost is $225. Registration deadline is April 1. For more information, contact Hilde Glore at 206-284-1960.

2002 Summer Institute of Theology

Join clergy and laity from around the region at the 2002 Summer Institute of Theology from June 24-27 at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in Tacoma.

Highlights include lectures by three prominent scholars: Luke Timothy Johnson, author of The Real Jesus and New Testament Professor at Candler School of Theology; Alicia Batten, Assistant Professor of New Testament at PLU; and John Petersen, Professor of Religion at PLU. The summer institute chaplain is Rev. Mark Brocker, pastor at Trinity in Tacoma.

Cost: $200 for clergy and $100 for retired clergy or lay for registration received before June 1; $250 for clergy and $125 for retired clergy or lay (after June 1). Rooms and board fees are available.

CEU credit for the Institute is offered through LENS. Forms will be available at the Institute.

For more information contact the Office of Church Relations, PLU, at 253-535-7423 or email crel@PLU.edu.

Pastoral Conference

The 2002 ELCA Region 1 Pastoral Conference will be held April 8 through 11 at the Empress Hotel, in Victoria B.C. Speakers include Don S. Browning and Marilyn Sharpe. Registration Information has been mailed. For more information contact the registrar, Lori Johnson, at 509-465-2931. Registration deadline is March 1.

Systematic Theology

The Fisher's Net is pleased to announce the introduction of Systematic Theology, a new on-line course being offered by Wartburg Theological Seminary.

This course will introduce the basic structures of Christian and Lutheran thought, as it explores the relationship between God, humanity and the world in a history of revelation that extends from creation and fall to the consummation of all things and is centered in Jesus Christ. The course will be organized around the Trinitarian framework of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. Throughout the course, the global context of the Christian witness to Jesus Christ and the engagement between the Christian message and other religious traditions will be kept in view.

For more information, visit the website at www.fishersnet.net/courses . Classes begin Feb. 25 through June 21.

Sudanese Support

Trinity in Everett reports that Abraham, Gabriel, James, Matthew and Peter have received much support from local congregations (Prince of Peace, Central, Zion, Our Savior's and Faith, as well as First Covenant Church— all of Everett). Funds were also raised from the Sno-Isle Reformation Festival. The more than $3,521 helped purchase bicycles, back packs, rainsuits, a bicycle pump, warm gloves, clothing dressers, GED test fees and Christmas gifts. The remaining funds have been designated for their education.

Scholarships to be Awarded

Trinity Lutheran College recently announced a new scholarship program for students from ELCA congregations who demonstrate leadership in their school, church or community.

The Bishop's Scholarship Program will award half-tuition scholarships to six incoming students each year, one from each of the six synods in Region 1. The awards are renewable for up to three additional years and will be awarded to recipients at each Synod Assembly.

For more information about the scholarship program, please call the Office of Admission at 1-800-843-5659 or email admission@tlc.edu.

Holden Youth Weekends

For more information check the *JustAboutEverythingPages* or go to the website at www.elcaregion1.org/youth. Registration opened Feb. 1! Registrar--Targhee Haveman, c/p Immanuel Lutheran, 1036 West A St., Moscow, ID 83843; telephone 208-883-8669; email grandtarghee@hotmail.com.

Western States Youth Gathering

'face 2 face get connected"

The Western States Youth Gathering will be held July 1 through 7, 2002, in San Jose, Calif. There will be awesome mass gatherings, enthusiastic speakers and lively music. Contact Larry Wagner at 1-805-3110, ext. 222; or visit their website at www.wsyg.com.

Calligrapher Wanted

The Northwest Washington Synod is in need of the services of a calligrapher. Please contact Donene at 206/783-9292 or 800/244-6997 if you or someone you know could help us.

For Sale

Sammamish Hills, Sammamish, has a three year old AB Dick folder (model #58) for sale, $500. Please call Mary Jones or Yoseph Petros at 425-392-7799 if you are interested.

The Merchants of Cool

Teenagers today have more money and independence than ever before. Their lives have become the object of obsessive focus by corporate America. PBS's Frontline explores the culture in which today's American teenager is growing up and how they've come to view themselves and their parents.

This video was produced by PBS Video and distributed by Alternatives. It would be appropriate for use with adult youth leaders, college age young adults and adult discussion groups. It is 60-minutes in length.

To reserve this video, call Region 1 Resource Center at 206-624-0093, ext. 100. Resource Center hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ask for V-1189.

Within Our Family

Within Our Family *depends upon you–not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please contact the Synod office with any additions to this column.*

Prayers for Strength and Healing...

† For the family of the **Rev. John Adin Leaf (ret).** Rev. John passed away on January 27. He is survived by his wife, Connie and their four children and nine grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother Edna, and by brothers and sisters; Gerald, Mark, Jane and Mary.

† For the family of **Rev. Mikkel Thompson** of the Southwestern Washington Synod. His memorial service was held on January 17 at Emmanuel in Tacoma.

To Keep in Our Prayers....

† **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.) and his wife Rachel** who were in a serious one-car accident last summer. Continued prayers for their recovery.

† **The Rev. Doug Langholz** as he deals with progressive ALS. He has now gone on disability.

† **The Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he deals with progressive muscular dystrophy.

News and Notes

❖ **Rev. Kirby Unti, St. Matthew's in Renton,** is listed as one of the pastors and lay practitioners who are available as part of the ELCA Partners in Evangelism Network. The Network (a brochure was included in your Jan/Feb Action Packet) is a speaker's bureau of skilled evangelism practitioners available to synods, conferences and clusters. For more information go to www.elca.org/eteam.

John Adin Leaf

John was born June 11, 1931, in Salt Lake City, Utah. John graduated from Dassel High School (Minnesota) in 1949. Upon graduation, he entered Palmer College of Chiropractic, where he met the love of his life Connie Johnson. Connie graduated in 1951 and John in 1952. John and Connie were married in 1952 at Zion, Everett.

Shortly after that, John served in the Army. After his honorable discharge, John opened up a chiropractic office in Lynnwood where he stayed until 1968 when he left for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. After one year, John transferred to Gettysburg Theological Seminary and graduated in 1971. He was ordained in 1971 in Walkersville, Maryland, where he served at two sister parishes, St. Paul Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran Church, until 1976.

In 1976, John and his family returned to the Northwest and began service at Clearbrook Lutheran, Everson. John worked as a Chiropractor while he was pastor at Clearbrook. John retired from his chiropractic practice in 1996. He thoroughly enjoyed his two careers because they made him feel needed, and he loved helping people.

John was an avid student of history and music. He loved watching news and documentaries and working outdoors. John will be sorely missed by his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

continued from page 3

IRS Information

certain individuals to revoke their approved Form 4361. Only elections that were effective for the tax year including Dec. 17, 1999 may be revoked under this provision. The revocation will be effective for either 2000 or 2001 and all later years.

If you choose to revoke your exemption:

- You will be covered under the Social Security System, and your
- Earnings will be subject to Self-Employment Tax.

Once you revoke the exemption, you can never again elect exemption from Self-Employment Tax. To revoke the exemption, you must complete and file Form 2031. You may file your form with the IRS by fax at 859-292-7867 or by mail at: IRS, Stop 14M, Attn: Exemption Revocation, P.O. Box 12267, Covington, KY 41012-0267. Additional information is available in Publication 517. Form 2031 and Publication 517 can be found at the IRS website at www.irs.gov, specific links:

- http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2031.pdf
- http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p517.pdf

Or, you may call 1-800-829-3676 and request that a copy be mailed to you.

Information to assist in the researching of the tax law that surrounds this topic can be found at: http://www.irs.gov/businesses/display/0,,i1%3D2%26genericId%3D23116,00.html. If you need further information regarding this election, call 1-800-829-1040 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Soundings

News and information for pastors, associates in ministry, lay leaders and ecumenical friends of the

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(Permission to copy information in Soundings for use in congregations is granted.)

The deadline for the April 2002 issue of Soundings and The Spirit is Monday, March 4. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; email: peifflepr@aol.com; or fax: 360-435-5955.